

# STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS

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No. 6

## WESTERN GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE

The 1960 Western Governors' Conference, meeting in Seattle, Washington, May 15-18, took a series of actions designed to foster economic development in the West. A committee was authorized to work with the economic development agencies of the western states, study the planning and development of the region's economic resources and report to the next Western Governors' Conference.

The Conference endorsed a proposed region-wide workshop on the role of the universities in economic development, to be organized by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education and the Council of State Governments with the advice and assistance of the economic development agencies of the thirteen western states. In other action the Conference reiterated its 1959 resolution on mining, urging specific steps by the federal government to assist the recovery of the domestic mining industry. It also urged the Administration and Congress to provide an orderly plan for undertaking new irrigation projects.

On highway safety, the Conference endorsed in principle the establishment of an interstate compact for interchange of driver records and other information to effect better and more uniform control of motor vehicle operators. A Committee on Traffic Safety, established in 1959, was directed to work with the western states in establishing working arrangements for the drafting of such a compact. (See *Propose Highway Safety Compact*, page 5.)

The Governors authorized a Committee on Juvenile Delinquency to recommend specific action on juvenile delinquency prevention and rehabilitation.

The Conference endorsed federal-state action to assure adequate medical care for the aged and urged Congress to enact legislation providing a health insurance plan for persons 65 years old and older who are of limited financial means.

(Continued on page 4)

## LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

Georgia -- The 1960 Georgia legislature enacted an income tax withholding system expected to net at least \$2.5 million annually. The existing appropriation act was extended for another year, with approval of \$44 million in contingency appropriations, largely for education.

Other results of the session, which ended February 19, include an expanded Budget Bureau and Executive-Legislative Finance Commission. The legislature removed the interest ceilings on bond issues of all state authorities and authorized a system of self insurance for state property.

Among measures on education it authorized development of area vocational schools, removed the mill limitation on local taxes for education, and approved credit for prior out-of-state service for members of the teachers retirement system.

A State Penal and Rehabilitation Authority was established to plan for new construction, and a Prison Industries Administration was set up to manage and develop an expanded program.

In the field of mental health the legislature authorized \$12 million in new construction, set up a new commitment procedure and consolidated all mental health activities -- including the program for alcoholics -- in the Department of Health. Related legislation provides for charging of fees to financially able patients. A psychiatrist was appointed to the State Board of Health. Measures approved for referendum would authorize scholarships for mental health personnel and permit physicians trained with the help of state scholarships to repay the state through service at the state mental hospital. The legislature authorized transfer of narcotic addicts and alcoholics to the state mental hospital.

In other action the legislature adopted a safety numbering law for motor boats in

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excess of 10 horsepower; authorized establishment of an industrial development commission; and recodified insurance laws.

It authorized the Governor to permit agencies to destroy obsolete records with the approval of the Secretary of State and the Archives Director. Standards for micro-filming were established.

Salary increases enacted include raises to \$18,000 for the Commissioner of Revenue; to \$17,500 for the Superintendent of Education; to \$16,000 for the Public Service Commissioner; and to \$12,000 for the Commissioner of Agriculture. A single master policy was authorized to cover all state employees who must be bonded. Retirement system coverage and coverage under OASI were extended to members of the State Supreme Court.

**Hawaii** -- Hawaii's first state legislative budget session, which adjourned April 21, appropriated \$83 million for state operating expenses in the 1960-61 fiscal year. Also approved was a \$15 million capital improvements program to be financed out of a \$16 million surplus expected in the general fund at the end of the current fiscal period. The legislature provided for a nine-member management improvement team in the Department of Budget and Review to help effect efficiency and economy in government operations.

The last territorial budget session (1959), appropriating on a biennial basis, approved a general operating fund for 1959-61 of \$155 million, of which \$80.6 million was allocated for the second half of the period. The last territorial session also passed a capital improvements program for the biennium of \$39.2 million, of which \$9.2 million was to be financed in cash and the remainder by bond issues. Most of the \$2.4 million increase in the state budget over the territorial budget for the 1959-61 period was necessitated by the need for new teachers, departmental workload increases and other expansion of state government.

While raising state operating expenditures and cash outlays for capital improvements, the legislators also provided for personal and business tax reductions. The personal income tax exemption was raised from \$400 to \$600 and general excise tax rates were reduced on the sugar and pineapple industry and on wholesaling, manufacturing, producing, vending and service operations, effective January 1, 1961. The reductions are expected to lower the state's income by \$3.1 million in the 1960-61 fiscal year and by \$7.2 million annually thereafter. However, the general fund is expected to remain in balance or even to show a surplus, estimated at as high as \$10 million by the end of the 1960-61 fiscal period.

In addition to appropriation measures, budget sessions are limited to consideration of "emergency measures." One nonbudgetary bill approved limited the period of personal history statements required of civil service

applicants to eight years prior to the time of application. However, Governor William F. Quinn signed a proclamation stating his intention to let the measure die without his signature. Under the Hawaii constitution the measure became officially dead on June 1, as the legislature had not reconvened itself by then to seek to override the veto. By the same process the Governor in effect vetoed a measure exempting labor unions and other nonprofit corporations from the real property tax. The Governor also has the right to veto items in appropriation bills without the legislature's having a chance to override the veto.

**Kentucky** -- The 1960 Kentucky legislature enacted a record \$1,024 million biennial budget -- up \$171 million from authorizations for the previous two years. The legislature, which adjourned March 18, approved general fund appropriations of \$414 million -- an increase of \$164 million. Other authorizations include \$320 million for education, \$245 million for health and welfare, and a veterans bonus expected to cost \$20 million.

The legislature initiated a retail sales tax, of 3 per cent; reduced the tax on cigarettes from 3 to 2-1/2 cents a pack; eliminated a surtax on incomes and increased income tax credits; reduced the property levy on bank deposits; and provided for payment, beginning in 1961, of corporate income imposts on a current basis. Approved for fall referendum was a \$100 million bond issue, primarily for roads.

An administrative office of the courts was established, and a retirement system for judges and commissioners of the Court of Appeals was set up. The commissioners' pay was increased from \$10,800 to \$11,500.

The legislature clarified and added to the authority of the Attorney General in the management of his office and in provision of legal services to certain line departments. In other organizational changes the State Highway Advisory Board was abolished and a merit system was established for the civil service. The legislature established a Department of Child Welfare to be responsible for all related state programs except aid to dependent children. A new division of the Department of State was set up to provide staff services to business or professional regulatory boards. Other measures extended state retirement system contributions and benefits to legislators; established a code of ethics for legislators and state employees prohibiting conflicts of interest and establishing penalties for violations; and raised per diem allowances for legislators from \$10 to \$25.

A Toll Road Authority was created to construct expressways in areas not served by the interstate system, to be financed from bonds (subject to referendum) serviced by both toll receipts and conventional highway revenues. Billboards along interstate roads were prohibited, and planning of county road work was vested in the Department of Highways.

The legislature provided for a nine member commission of inquiry, appointed by the Governor, to study problems and evaluate programs at all levels of education. Another education commission was established to study the need for and possible location of new centers of higher learning. State aid at the rate of \$100 per year per exceptional child was approved for qualified private institutions for exceptional children.

Kentucky became the first state to adopt the Southern Interstate Nuclear Compact. At the session the state's atomic energy laws were amended to require prior submission of administrative regulations to the Governor as well as an Advisory Committee on Nuclear Energy; to permit the Governor to negotiate and enter agreements with the United States Atomic Energy Commission for the transfer of regulatory powers; and to empower relevant state agencies to provide for licensing the possession and use of radiation sources and the handling and disposal of radiation wastes.

The legislature provided for regulation and annual licensing of private nursing homes. It established a Commission for Handicapped Children and authorized a program of diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. The Interstate Compact on Juveniles was approved. A division of mental retardation was established in the Department of Welfare, and a program of medical care for indigents was established. Maximum weekly payments of workmen's compensation benefits were raised from \$34 to \$38, and maximum unemployment benefits were raised from \$34 to \$37 per week. A wage board was set up in the Department of Industrial Relations to assure compliance with wage rules for contractors on state public works projects.

The legislature authorized a full referendum on a limited constitutional convention and established a Constitution Revision Committee as an arm of the Legislative Research Commission to study, review and report on suggested changes.

**Rhode Island** -- The 1960 Rhode Island legislature passed a general appropriation act providing for \$91.4 million for fiscal 1961. The session, which convened January

5, recessed on May 7 until December 30. Under terms of the recess resolution, the legislature may be called back into session at any time prior to December 30 by the presiding officers of the House and Senate.

The legislature appropriated \$1.5 million for school construction grants and \$50,000 for a student loan program. It approved a \$6 million bond issue for the state college system and authorized the establishment of two-year community colleges.

A \$200 million state-federal highway program was enacted by the legislature and then approved by the voters at a special election on May 24. The program, to be financed in part by bond issues, is expected to speed up construction on the interstate system and on primary and secondary roads.

The legislature raised the gas tax from 6 to 7 cents a gallon; raised the cigarette tax from 5 to 6 cents a pack; and increased drivers' licenses and motor vehicle registration fees. It raised business corporation and bank excise tax rates from 5-1/2 per cent to 6 per cent; provided for a state tax on intangibles in lieu of the present local tax, with 40 per cent of these revenues to be returned to local governments; increased sheriffs' fees and court costs; and increased many license and permit fees. It is expected that these measures will produce an additional \$10 million for the state in the next fiscal year.

By action of the legislature and subsequent approval of the voters at the May 24 referendum, the mortgage insurance capacity of the Rhode Island Industrial Building Authority was increased by \$30 million. Scheduled for referendum in November are proposed bond issues totaling \$4.5 million for recreation development and facilities at the state training school and \$20 million for bridge construction.

The legislature appropriated \$2 million for pay raises for state employees. Under another measure the state will pay health insurance premiums for its employees. A group life insurance plan for state employees was established, and pensions for legislators were increased.

Other legislation at the session included ratification of the New England Corrections Compact; adoption of the Uniform Commercial Code; and provision for registration of voters in factories, commercial establishments, hospitals and other places. Maximum workmen's compensation benefits for total disability were increased from \$32 to \$40 per week. The legislature enacted a measure requiring all new drivers to have at least thirty hours of classroom instruction in driving before obtaining licenses.

**Virginia** -- The 1960 Virginia legislature approved appropriations totaling more than \$1.2 billion for the biennium, a record increase of \$205 million over the sum approved

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for the 1958-60 period. At the session, which ended March 12, the legislature set general fund appropriations at \$498 million -- an increase of \$93 million. The general fund amount included \$451 million for recurring items; \$38 million for capital outlay; and \$8 million for contingency and nonrecurring maintenance and operation items.

The legislature provided for a tobacco tax, due to expire June 30, 1962; a 10 per cent tax on alcoholic beverages; and a one-time acceleration of the due date for payments of the tax on intangible property. Estimates of the returns from these tax changes vary from \$60 million to \$76 million. In addition, the gasoline tax was raised from 6 to 7 cents a gallon, to yield an estimated \$12.5 million a year.

Principal emphasis in appropriations went to education, which accounts for 67 per cent of the recurring general fund items. Public schools account for \$224 million, institutions of higher education \$48 million, and associated educational agencies \$14 million. Public school increases of \$47 million are mainly for adding teachers, raising teacher salary scales, improving teacher retirement benefits, and strengthening the education program generally. Salaries and increased enrollment account for much of an \$8 million increase for institutions of higher learning. Two new junior colleges were authorized, and a new technical institute, previously authorized, also will open. All three will operate as branches of existing institutions. An appropriation of \$500,000 was made for undergraduate loans and scholarships, in part because of increases in tuition and fees, and provision was made for a guaranteed loan fund of \$500,000 utilizing private agencies' loans.

Other major appropriations include \$4.8 million for mental institutions; \$1.9 million for expansion of port facilities; \$1.6 million for correctional facilities; and \$763,020 for improved retirement and optional group life insurance for state employees.

In other action the legislature provided for roadside billboard restrictions; a boat registration statute; prohibition of certain Sunday sales; increases in workmen's compensation and unemployment compensation benefits; a five year moratorium in certain annexation proceedings; and provision for a three-factor corporation tax formula to become effective in 1962. A permanent Commission on Economy for Government Expenditures was established.

#### LEGISLATURES

A Special Select Committee of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, appointed to study the possibility of installing an electric roll call system, has recommended that such a system be installed in the House for use in the 1961 session. The committee also recommended that the House public address system be expanded and improved.

#### WESTERN GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE (Continued from page 1)

Other resolutions recommended that the legislatures of the western states carefully study and consider proposed legislation for establishment in each state of a records management program, including preservation of essential operating records in event of nuclear attack; urged the Departments of Defense and of the Air Force, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the National Security Council, to re-evaluate the proposed reduction of interceptor fighter forces at the nation's northernmost major air base in Alaska; and opposed a proposed withdrawal from the State Air National Guards of C-45 aircraft unless suitable replacements are made available.

The Conference declared its "strong and wholehearted support of the President of the United States in his dignified and unyielding response to the ignoble and outrageous demands of Chairman Khrushchev," and expressed the hope that the obstacles Mr. Khrushchev had placed in the path of discussion of grace international issues would be overcome by leaders of the free world.

Governor George D. Clyde of Utah was elected Chairman of the Conference for the coming year, and Governor William A. Egan of Alaska was elected Vice Chairman.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION

Governor Gaylord A. Nelson of Wisconsin has appointed a fifteen member temporary commission to study the question whether a constitutional convention is needed. The commission is headed by Justice Thomas E. Fairchild of the State Supreme Court and E. Burgess Ela, an attorney.

#### TAX, FISCAL AFFAIRS

North Carolina Revenue -- North Carolina reports a \$44 million, 13 per cent increase in revenues for the first ten months of the current fiscal year compared with collections for the comparable period in the previous year. State withholding of income taxes, enacted in 1959, was credited with adding about \$8 million to the total.

Budget Assistance -- Neil D. Humphrey, Nevada Budget Director, has announced that the University of Nevada's Bureau of Economic Research will assist the state in forecasting state revenues for 1961-63 as a basis for preparing budget requests covering the biennium. The forecast will be based on previous revenue sources as far back as 1945. The present tax base will be used as a guide to future revenues, and relatively new sources of income such as the sales tax and gaming tax will not be projected backward beyond their dates of inception. The report is expected to be ready by September, when all state department budget requests must be submitted to the Budget Director.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

**Colorado River Water Allocation** -- One of the longest and most important legal battles over water allocation from a single river moved into its final phases on May 5 with the issuance of the preliminary findings of Judge Simon E. Rifkind, Special Master appointed by the United States Supreme Court to hear testimony in the case. Involved in the litigation are Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and the federal government.

Judge Rifkind's "Draft Report," based on twenty-six months of testimony by each of the jurisdictions, several cities and special water districts, constituted a victory for Arizona in its fifth attempt, dating back more than thirty years, to confirm title to 3.8 million acre feet of water from the Colorado River. Judge Rifkind recommended that Arizona be given the rights to 2.8 million acre feet of water from the Colorado River, plus half of any surplus above the 7.5 million acre feet allocated to the Lower Colorado River Basin states by the 1922 Colorado River Compact. Under the recommendation Arizona would also be given rights to nearly all the approximately 1 million acre feet of water from the Gila River, a principal Arizona tributary of the Colorado River. Other recommendations would disallow California's claim for 5.362 million acre feet and set the state's limit at 4.4 million acre feet, plus half of any Lower Basin surplus. Nevada's claim to 500,000 acre feet would be reduced to 300,000 and New Mexico would be prohibited from increasing use of Gila River water at the expense of Arizona.

New Mexico and Utah, like Colorado and Wyoming, are designated as Upper Basin states and receive only a fraction of their Colorado River water supply from the Lower Basin area.

One recommendation would allocate about one-half million acre feet of Colorado River water to Indian uses and waterfowl refuges -- the water so used to be charged against the states where such areas are located.

Attorneys for all parties concerned have thirty days to make comments on the report with a view to any possible revision before the final recommendations are filed with the Supreme Court. Objections then can be made and oral testimony given by the participants to the Supreme Court before it renders the final decision. Traditionally the high court has upheld the recommendations of court-appointed masters.

Even after the Supreme Court's decision, new litigation on the division of Colorado River waters is possible. Five separate categories of law are involved -- the Colorado River Compact, the Boulder Canyon Project Act, the California Limitations Act, scores of federal government water delivery contracts, and a 1945 United States treaty with Mexico. California based its position in the litigation on "western water law"

which provides that the first person to take water from a river and use it for a beneficial purpose retains a paramount right to the water.

**Advisory Conservation Committee** -- Governor John Burroughs of New Mexico has announced appointment of a fifty-six member Advisory Committee to the State Planning Office to make recommendations on conservation, development and use of the state's resources. The advisory group, comprising a broad representation of occupations in state and local government, educational institutions and private industry, is divided into seven subcommittees. Each is concerned with a separate category of resources, including water, mineral, recreation, industrial development and agricultural lands.

## TRAFFIC CONTROL, SAFETY

**Propose Highway Safety Compact** -- The principle of an interstate compact on highway safety was endorsed by the Western Interstate Committee on Highway Policy Problems at a meeting May 2, in Sacramento, California.

The Committee requested the Council of State Governments to assist in drafting a proposed compact in cooperation with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances, and other interested agencies.

Possible compact provisions include interchange of driver licensing records, uniform standards and procedures relating to license suspension and revocation, and uniform standards and approval of motor vehicle equipment. (See WESTERN GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE, page 1.)

In a statement of intent adopted after a discussion of interstate cooperation and highway safety, the Committee: (1) declared that responsibility and authority for the safety and control of motor vehicle operations rests primarily with the states; (2) urged that the movement of highway traffic not be impeded by interstate barriers -- either physical or those growing out of conflicting rules of administration; (3) noted that each state should have available information on all persons, regardless of residence, operating motor vehicles within that state; and (4) called for uniformity of rules and regulations among the states to the greatest extent practicable to assure the safety and control of motor vehicle operations.

The Committee received reports on the national highway program and recent developments in the Reciprocity and Proration Compact.

**Michigan Traffic Safety Committee** -- The Michigan Legislature has established a special Senate interim committee to study preventive methods for highway safety. The

committee will function between the 1960 and 1961 regular sessions of the legislature to study the state's traffic safety needs and report its findings and recommendations to the legislature. Senator Haskell L. Nichols is Chairman of the committee.

**License Agreement --** The Motor Vehicle Administrators of Connecticut and New Jersey have announced a far-reaching agreement under which each state will revoke licenses of its drivers for violations which result in revocation in the other state.

The agreement spells out in detail the steps which will be taken upon convictions for speeding, drunken driving and other traffic violations. Where offenses do not result in suspension or revocation of licenses, the driver's home state will assess penalties under its point system. The agreement also provides that drivers who fail to satisfy court summonses in either state will have their licenses revoked until they do so.

Both Connecticut and New Jersey hope to conclude similar bi-lateral agreements with other nearby states.

**Driver License Suspensions --** South Carolina is engaged in a determined program to rid the roads of irresponsible drivers. In March, an average of more than 100 persons a day had operator permits suspended under various phases of the state's driver improvement program. Suspensions since the beginning of the year are up more than 60 per cent over the comparable period in 1959. Largely responsible is a new law providing for suspension of permits of persons who are guilty of a traffic violation carrying four or more demerit points and who do not have liability insurance or other proof of financial responsibility.

**New Driver License Tests --** The New Hampshire Motor Vehicle Department recently inaugurated a series of new written tests and vision-test procedures for examination of driver license applicants.

The written examinations include one in French, as the state has a large French speaking population. The examination is designed to force applicants to study the Drivers' Manual issued by the state and to become familiar with the traffic laws and regulations before attempting to pass the tests of their qualifications to drive safely. About 50 per cent of new applicants are failing the test on the first try.

The department has also installed new tele-binoculars for all examining points which will insure standard acuity tests.

#### UTILITY RELOCATION

**Utah Decision --** The Utah Supreme Court has held constitutional a law passed by the 1957 legislature requiring the state

to pay the cost of utility relocation necessitated by highway construction.

District Court Judge Maurice Harding, appointed as a participant in the case, wrote the court's unanimous opinion. Justice E. R. Callister disqualified himself.

As Attorney General, Justice Callister had issued an opinion shortly after the law was passed holding it unconstitutional. Since then, relocation payments have been held up by mutual agreement between the state and the utilities pending settlement of the constitutional issue. Payments due under these arrangements now total \$500,000.

Following the court decision Attorney General Walter L. Budge said he believed the Public Service Commission should reexamine the rate structure of public utilities in line with their reduction in costs. The utilities have cited relocation costs in justifying their returns before the commission.

State Highway Director C. Taylor Burton said that in light of the decision the State Highway Department will consider:

1. Requiring utilities to agree to pay for relocation before being allowed to install lines or pipes on highway right-of-way.
2. Requiring utilities to pay rent for locating on highway right-of-way.
3. As an alternative, if neither arrangement is acceptable, preventing utilities from locating facilities on highway right-of-way.

All three prospects will be reviewed by the department's legal staff before any action is taken.

#### PAROLE, PROBATION

**Parole Handbook --** A Handbook on Parole for use by police officers has been prepared by the Pennsylvania Board of Parole and the Parole Committee of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. The booklet outlines the jurisdiction of the parole authority in Pennsylvania and the rules applying to parolees. It indicates what steps police officers should take in arresting a person believed to be on parole and emphasizes the importance of close cooperation between parole officers and the police. Means are set forth as to how parole officers may assist the police and how the police may aid in rehabilitating parolees.

**Probation Consultant --** The New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts, on the direction of the State Supreme Court, has established the position of Consultant on Probation. F. Lovell Bixby, recently appointed to the position, is undertaking a county by county survey of probation services. In each county he will make detailed recommendations as to desirable improvements in staffing, training, compensation and workloads of probation officers, as well as other proposals for improving probation services.



In New Jersey as in many other states probation services have been handled through the courts on a county basis. The new program represents an effort to provide technical assistance by the state for local probation departments. As part of the new program the administrative office has begun collection of annual probation statistics, and interstate probation cases are being cleared through the office.

#### JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

During the past year Juvenile Conference Committees operating in various New Jersey communities have handled almost 3,000 cases. The committees, provided for by a rule of the Supreme Court, are made up of laymen appointed by judges of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts. They operate under the jurisdiction of these courts and have as their function the handling of cases referred to them by the courts.

Generally, the committees deal with minor types of juvenile offenses. Their value lies in the fact that they permit working out voluntary solutions to behavior problems without the necessity of establishing a formal juvenile court record. Hearings before the committees are voluntary. Any juvenile or his family who objects to appearing before a committee may have his case referred to the court. All proceedings before the committees are confidential.

#### WESTERN ATTORNEYS GENERAL

The Conference of Western Attorneys General met May 22-24 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In discussion sessions the participants explored constitutional problems involved in state taxation, state jurisdiction over labor disputes, legal relations of the Attorney General with the state highway department, and claims collection and related problems.

At the closing business session the Conference reiterated its previous stands for: (1) eliminating the abuse of the writ of habeas corpus; (2) passage of federal legislation recognizing the primacy of state laws governing property rights in the appropriation, diversion, use or storage of surface and underground waters; and (3) reversal of the trend toward greater expenditures and contributions in political campaigns.

Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton of Oregon was elected Chairman of the Conference for 1961.

#### MIDWESTERN AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The second meeting of the Midwestern Agriculture Committee was held in Chicago, June 2, in the offices of the Council of State Governments.

The committee adopted a resolution requesting the Federal Food and Drug Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture to carry on an extensive program of research on substances used as additives in foods, and further requesting Congress to provide adequate funds for such an undertaking. The resolution also recommended to Congress "substitution of a more justifiable regulation," in the area of food additives than the one presently in force. The committee urged that the regulation should provide, "that no substance with the ability to induce cancer following ingestion by man or animal could be employed in foods or appear in foods above a safe level of use established through research and through evaluation by a properly qualified board of experts."

A report by a Subcommittee on Interstate Problems in Transportation of Livestock urged the states to continue working toward adoption of standard health requirements and regulations in the structure of existing statutes, rules and regulations. The report emphasized the urgency of continued and intensified policing under existing statutes, rules and regulations in the interstate movement of livestock.

This report, and the report of the full committee and other subcommittees, will be presented to the Midwestern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments at its annual meeting at Mackinac Island, Michigan, July 27-30.

#### INSURANCE COMMISSION

The South Carolina legislature has provided for an Insurance Commission of five members appointed by the Governor for staggered, six year terms. The new commission replaces the Office of Insurance Commissioner, a post previously under the control of a single commissioner elected by the legislature for a four year term.

#### HISTORICAL DISTRICTS

Massachusetts has enacted legislation empowering communities to establish historical districts. Several such districts had been created previously under special acts, but the new law grants general authority to all municipalities to set them up.

Before establishing such a district a community must undertake a study of the historic significance of buildings and other features in the proposed area. Recommendations of the study group must be submitted to a local planning board and several state agencies for their consideration. Public hearings also are required. After these steps the local governing body may establish by ordinance a district to preserve the area and protect it from encroachments which would destroy its historical significance.

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#### MUNICIPAL YEAR BOOK, 1960

The 27th annual volume of *The Municipal Year Book, 1960*, published by the International City Managers' Association, examines a broad range of municipal activities in the United States. The volume, of 590 pages, gives detailed information on local government -- from organization to the many functions performed by cities, towns and villages throughout the country.

New topics in the 1960 edition include parking lots and meters in more than 1,000 municipalities over 10,000 in population, housing standards in 229 cities, municipal in-service training activities, and activities of state associations of county officials.

Regular sections of the book provide new information on special censuses for cities over 5,000 population, zoning requirements for off-street parking, and city practices in providing uniforms or allowances for firemen and policemen. Other information features personnel organization, financial statistics, police and fire data, directories of city officials, bibliographies in various fields, and model municipal ordinances.

Twenty-one major tables present very extensive information about individual cities.

Recent developments in major categories of municipal activity are reviewed by outstanding authorities. These include such

fields as metropolitan area developments, municipal law, urban counties, economic classifications of cities, state municipal leagues, and such municipal functions as police, fire, personnel, public works, public health and education.

The book, edited by Orin F. Nolting and David S. Arnold, is available from the International City Managers' Association, 1313 East 60th Street, Chicago 37, Illinois, \$10 postpaid.

#### CAPITAL SITE

Alaska voters will decide at a primary election, August 9, whether the capital shall be moved from its present site at Juneau.

Secretary of State Hugh J. Wade announced the date for the special election after certifying that the initiative proposing the capital shift had received more than the necessary number of qualifying signatures. The initiative calls for voter enactment requiring location of the capital in the "Cook Inlet-Railbelt" area -- the general vicinity of Anchorage.

A committee of five to be appointed by the Governor is proposed in the initiative to select the exact capital site. Leaders of the effort to relocate the capital contend that the present capital at Juneau is not centrally located and thus cannot adequately serve as the new state's seat of government. Juneau has been the capital since 1906.



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